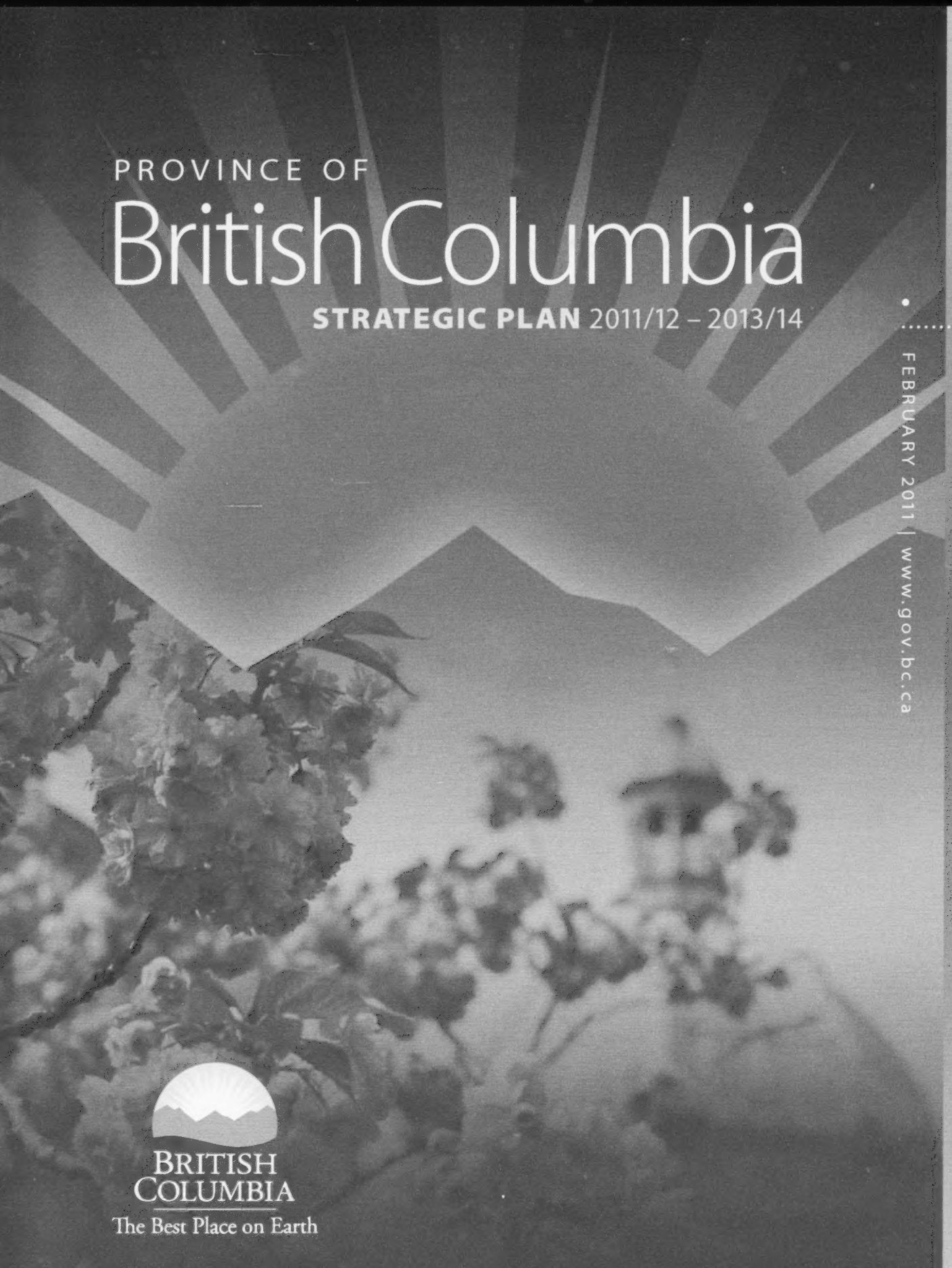


PROVINCE OF

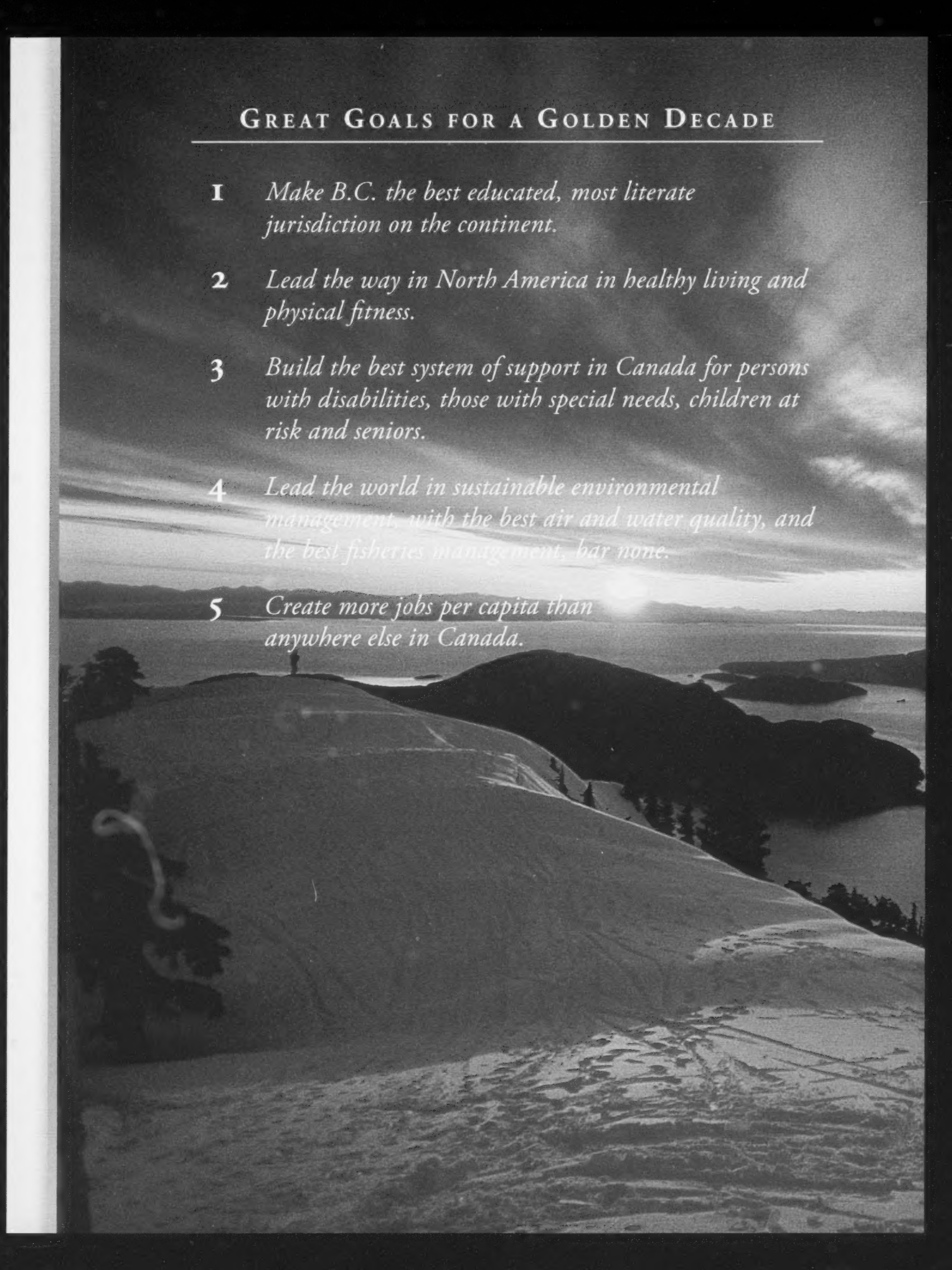
# British Columbia

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2011/12 – 2013/14

FEBRUARY 2011 | www.gov.bc.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth



## Great Goals for a Golden Decade

1 *Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.*

2 *Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.*

3 *Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.*

4 *Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.*

5 *Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.*

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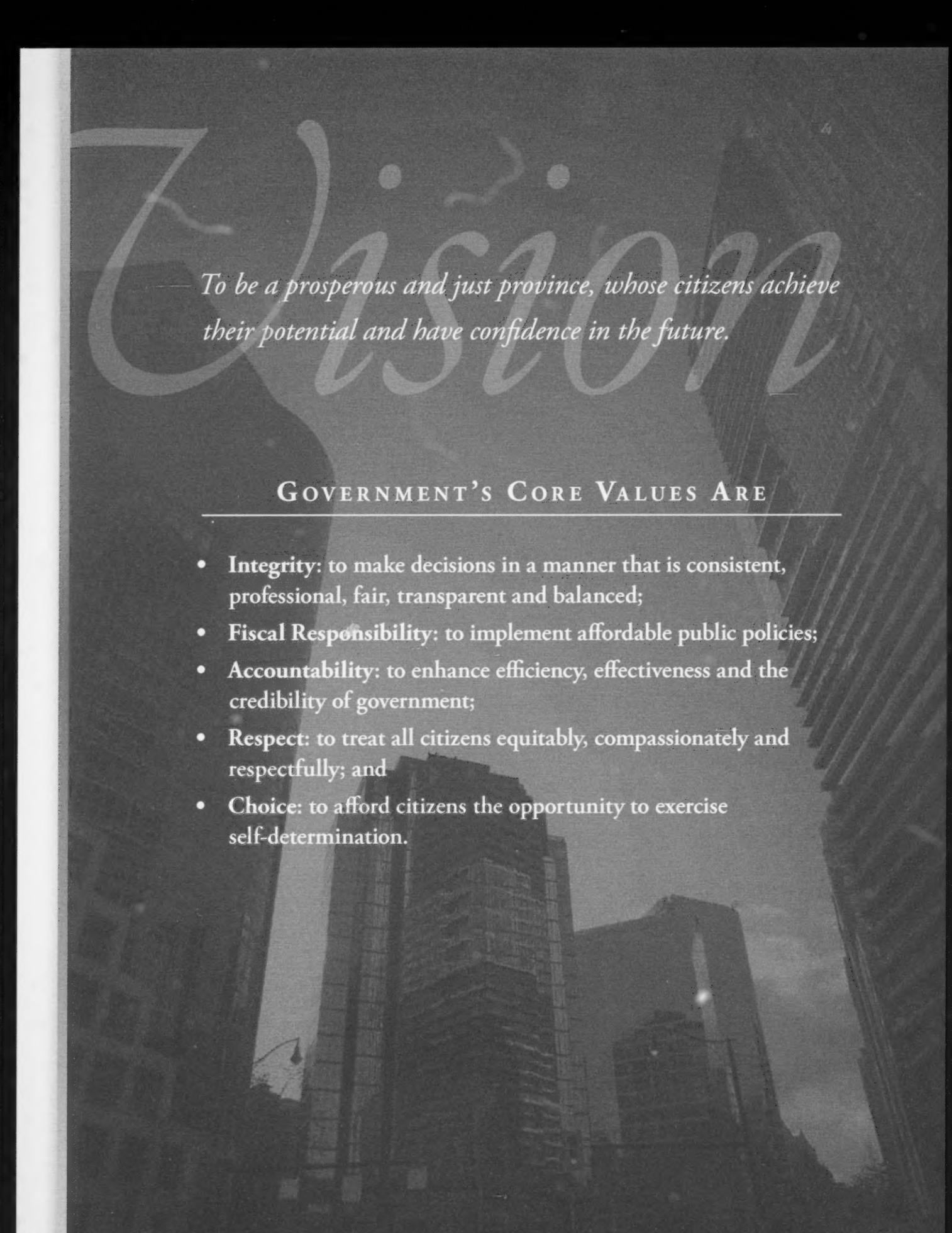



*To be a prosperous and just province, whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.*

## Government's Core Values Are

- **Integrity**: to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;
- **Fiscal Responsibility**: to implement affordable public policies;
- **Accountability**: to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;
- **Respect**: to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and
- **Choice**: to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.

# Letter from the Premier

As we move further into the second decade of the 21st Century, British Columbia finds itself in a strong position. As many jurisdictions across North America, and indeed around the world, struggle to recover from the global economic downturn, British Columbia has continued to see positive economic growth and job creation.

The reasons for this can be attributed to the competitive economic foundation British Columbians have built over the past decade. We now have the lowest personal income taxes in Canada for low- and middle-income earners and 325,000 low income British Columbians pay no provincial income tax. Our corporate and business tax rates are among the lowest in the G7.

Our natural resource industries have continued to emerge as a reliable and competitive supplier for world markets. The forest industry, which has seen record lumber sales to China, is creating new opportunities for forest workers. British Columbia's economy has continued to diversify over the past decade with growing success in high-tech industries, film, retail, tourism, clean energy and new media. Our competitive advantages were put on display a year ago with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

All of those factors give us promise moving forward as British Columbia enters another chapter in its history. Government is currently undertaking a change in leadership that will lead to the swearing in of British Columbia's 25th Premier. As displayed in this report, Government's focus is on a smooth and orderly transition while continuing to deliver the services that are important to British Columbians. This transition will ensure the incoming Executive Council is well positioned to advance its social and economic agenda for the Province.

This Strategic Plan outlines the strong foundation government has laid and ensures ongoing prosperity and success for the Province and British Columbians. Further details on each Ministry's role can be found in individual Ministry Service Plans and Annual Service Plan Reports.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

# Education and Skills for the 21st Century

Education, literacy and training are crucial to individual and societal competitiveness, and along with research and innovation, contribute to an overall higher level of economic and social wellbeing. The B.C. Government has built a long record of success in creating a comprehensive, cohesive and accessible system of education and training which has contributed directly to helping the province regain its position of strength not only within Canada, but as a global economic engine.

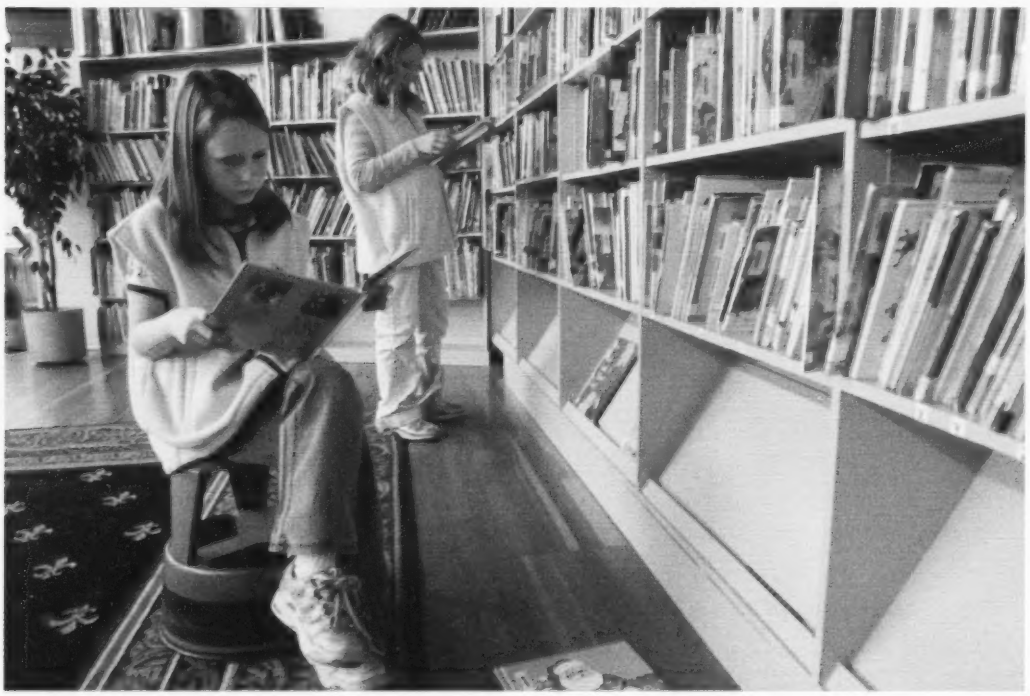
It starts with a high-performing primary and secondary education system. In late 2010, two international assessments showed that the provincial education system is achieving top results when compared to other jurisdictions.

The international assessment released by the Advanced Placement College Board ranked B.C. as the top jurisdiction in Canada and the United States. B.C.'s average score (3.67) was higher than Canada's average score (3.43) and higher than the United States' (2.84).

As well, British Columbia students consistently score well among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, as indicated in the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which tests 15-year-olds' abilities in science, math and reading every three years. Results include assessments from 65 countries and all 10 Canadian provinces.

In reading, B.C. students were in the top-performing range worldwide, with only Finland, Korea and Shanghai-China performing above B.C. In science, Finland, Hong Kong-China and Shanghai-China were above B.C.'s range, while in math nine jurisdictions were above B.C.'s range.

However, the world does not stand still. Other jurisdictions are also improving their results and while we have a good education system, we need to make improvements to remain competitive on a global scale. Generally, the 2009 results for B.C. students show scores similar to the 2006 results, with a slight decrease in math and science.



To inspire young minds across the province and foster a culture of research and innovation the 2010-2011 school year was proclaimed as the Year of Science in B.C. The goal is to engage British Columbians, in particular young people, in science by showcasing how science works, who scientists are, the kinds of work they do, and why science matters in the everyday lives of British Columbians and the communities they live in. Through the Year of Science, we are creating a legacy that will continue to encourage a culture of innovation and research in B.C. and inspire young minds with the thrill of scientific discovery.

The Province is committed to investing to ensure every child has strong foundation skills in reading, writing and math. Since 2000-01, the Province has increased funding to B.C. public schools by more than $1.3 billion. During the same period, September enrolment has declined by more than 59,000 students, resulting in B.C.'s per-student funding hitting a new high of $8,341, a $159 increase from 2009-10.

This Government continues to develop innovative ways to support student achievement. Measures include creating provincial superintendents of achievement who work closely with boards of education to examine student outcomes and cross-referencing Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) scores with completion-rate data. FSA scores provide a reliable predictor of a student's likelihood of completing school on time.

In addition, 51 school districts have now signed Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements, which are one component of the collaborative process that the Province is undertaking to help support Aboriginal student achievement. Others include the B.C. First Nation Education Agreement, developing Aboriginal content for the K-12 curriculum and adding Aboriginal languages to the choices for second-language requirements.

## Education and the Labour Market

Ensuring that British Columbia has the skills for success in the 21st century economy is a top priority for the Province. Students in British Columbia have the opportunity to develop specialized skills, knowledge and technical expertise required to compete, contribute and capitalize on emerging economic opportunities. Several national and international reviews have identified B.C. post-secondary education as among the best in the world.

Maclean's magazine's annual review of Canadian universities showed that Simon Fraser University (SFU) retained top spot for the third consecutive year in the Comprehensive category, which includes schools with significant research activity and programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The University of Victoria (UVic) was at number two in this category. The rankings also show the University of British Columbia (UBC) moved up a spot to third in the Medical Doctoral category and the University of Northern B.C. was number three in the Primarily Undergraduate category.

Three of B.C.'s universities also ranked among the top 200 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. These rankings are an important resource for students from around the world as they consider where to go to get the best education. The top 200 universities represent only a tiny fraction of global higher education, making UBC, UVic and SFU truly world class institutions.

In 2010 the Province launched ***Skills for Growth: British Columbia's Labour Market Strategy*** for 2020. The strategy sets out an ambitious vision: by 2020, B.C.'s highly skilled and globally competitive workforce will drive innovation and economic growth across the province. The strategy recognizes that significant achievements and investment in the labour market system have been made. It builds on past accomplishments, and improves the alignment of resources to achieve the province's economic goals.

***Skills for Growth*** **is based on three priority actions:**

- *Priority 1:* ***Increase the Skill Level and Labour Market Success of British Columbians*** *to help British Columbians get the skills they need for sustainable employment in regions across the province.*
- *Priority 2: Attract* ***Workers and Entrepreneurs from Outside the Province Who Meet British Columbia's Regional Economic Needs*** *to ensure British Columbia remains a destination of choice for skilled international workers for occupations that cannot be filled by British Columbians; and*
- *Priority 3:* ***Improve Workplace Productivity****. This means creating a culture of workplace innovation to advance gains in productivity to close the gap in projected unfilled job openings.*

The actions taken through this strategy will advance British Columbia's quality of life for the future and addressing the province's workforce challenges and building the skills for a 21st century economy.

# British Columbians Living Healthier and Longer

British Columbians enjoy lives that are among the healthiest in Canada: we smoke less, have a lower rate of obesity, are more physically active and live longer[1]. At the same time, aging demographics, new technology and increased demand for innovative cutting-edge procedures and treatments are continuing to put pressure on the costs associated with providing health services. Investments in health care could continue to increase well beyond inflation and population growth, taking up larger portions of the budget and leaving less room available for other critical services.

This government is committed to building a sustainable health care system to provide services that meet those needs while ensuring that the costs of providing those services are not an untenable burden on our future generations.

Participation in sports is a proven way to prevent or reduce many of the chronic health conditions that occur later in life and add to the cost burden of our health system. As well, sports are an important component in every B.C. community and an integral part of B.C. culture. In support of these ends, the Province provided almost $48 million in sport funding for 2010/11, a $4.6 million increase over 2009/10. With this support, more British Columbians can participate in field sports such as soccer and lacrosse; aquatic sports such as swimming and rowing; gym sports such as wheelchair basketball and rugby; wrestling, gymnastics and taekwondo; and emerging sports such as orienteering and bobsleigh.

ActNow BC, our initiative that supports and encourages all British Columbians to increase physical activity, eliminate tobacco use, eat healthy foods and make healthy choices in pregnancy, was recently recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a promising best practice approach in health promotion and chronic disease prevention from which other countries could learn.

This Government remains committed to the key priority of finding long-term solutions to homelessness as part of its efforts for ensuring the health of British Columbians. Cooperation and partnership with local government and non-profit organizations are key contributors to finding innovative solutions.

One of the priority targets for these efforts has been Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In December 2010, the Province and City of Vancouver reached a project milestone in their partnership to help end homelessness with construction beginning on the seventh supportive housing development in the city. The $22.5 million, 62-unit project is part of an agreement to create 1,575 new supportive housing units on 14 City-owned sites, with 570 new units expected to be open by the end of 2011.

In 2010-11, the Province invested approximately $562 million to provide affordable housing and fight homelessness–more than four times as much as in 2001. Since 2001, the government has committed to creating more than 20,000 new units of housing so far; 14,871 units have been completed, 4,063 are in development/under construction, and there are an additional 1,382 units where funding has been committed.

1 Statistics Canada 2010 Health Profile. Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 82-228-XWE

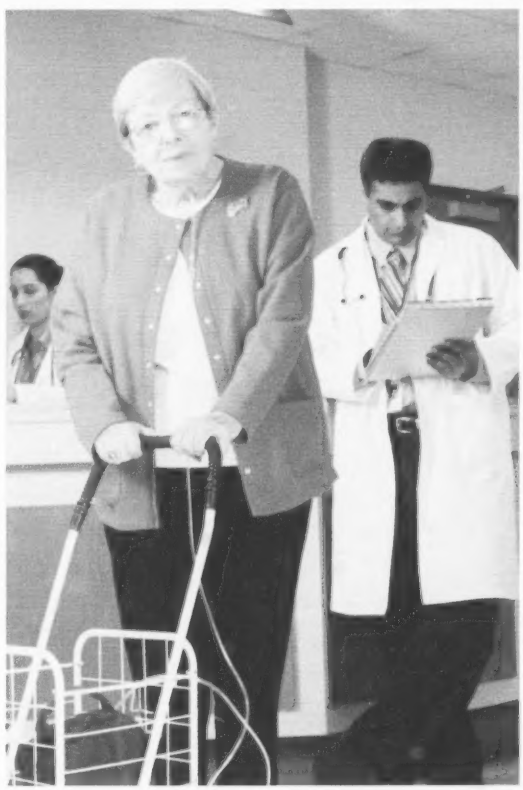
British Columbians have one of the highest levels of overall health and wellness in Canada. However, some population groups, such as people with mental health disorders, addictions or problematic substance use face multiple barriers to improving their social and economic well-being. Overcoming these barriers has required focused interventions that are integrated and client-centred.

Building on the work of the past decade, in November, 2010, the Province launched a 10-year mental health plan, ***Healthy Minds, Healthy People***. The plan was developed in consultation with many partners – including the Vancouver Police Department – and focuses on early intervention and appropriate treatment. The 10 year ***Healthy Minds, Healthy People*** mental health plan aims to:

1. *Improve the mental health and well-being of the population.*
2. *Improve the quality and accessibility of services for people with mental health and substance use problems.*
3. *Reduce the economic costs to the public and private sectors resulting from mental health and substance use problems.*

## Improved Access to Care

The Province is committed to continuing to improve British Columbian's ability to get the health services they need in a timely manner. Over $6 billion has already been spent on health care capital projects, and we are planning a further $2.6 billion over the next three years. New facilities include:



- *the $475-million Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre,*
- *the $239-million Surrey Outpatient Care and Surgical Centre, and a $525-million development to Surrey Memorial Hospital;*
- *The Interior Heart and Surgical Centre Project, with a total estimated cost of $448 million, is a multi-phase renovation, relocation and new construction project to build patient care in the interior. The project will see Kelowna General Hospital become the fifth hospital in B.C. to offer a full-service cardiac revascularization program, providing about 1,600 people with the cardiac care they need closer to home when fully operational in 2016; and*
- *$102.8 million in funding for the Northern Cancer Control Strategy, including a new BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George, scheduled for completion in 2012.*

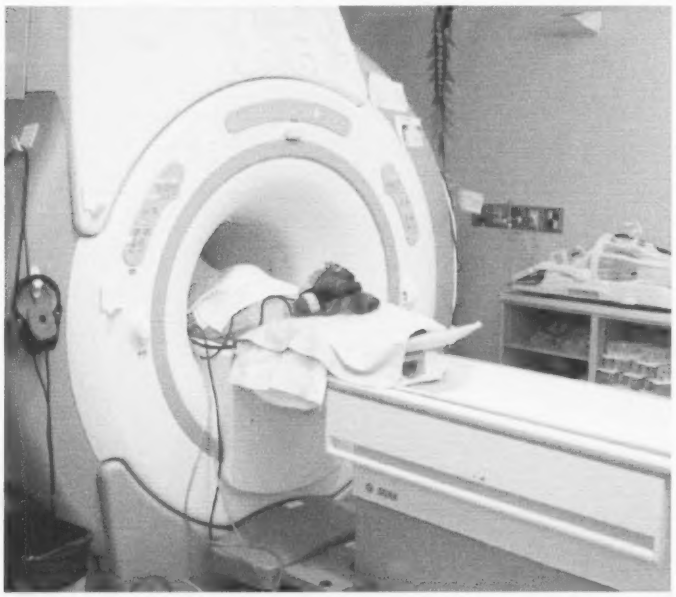
At the same time, we are also ensuring access to health professionals. Working in collaboration with the BC Medical Association, family doctors, medical specialists, community partners and regional health authorities, the Province has invested $137 million to provide a unique integrated model of primary and community care which will ensure:

- *Every patient who chooses can have a family doctor;*
- *Effective linkages across all types of health services, including home and community care, primary care, medical specialists and mental health services; and*
- *Patients will be involved in making decisions in their own care and will be involved in shaping the delivery of health care as key stakeholders in the community health system.*

Under the Province's $10-million Family Physicians for BC program, more than 89 new General Practitioners have agreed to serve as family physicians in 48 underserved communities. An independent national report released on December 2, 2010 by the Canadian Institute for Health Information showed that the number of doctors in B.C. increased by 5.4 per cent in 2009 over 2008, marking the highest single-year increase in the number of physicians in 30 years.

B.C. also is the first province in Canada to implement Divisions of Family Practice – groups of family physicians working together in a community or region to identify health service gaps and pinpoint issues that affect the local community or region. There are currently 16 Divisions that encompass approximately 60 communities in the province, with 10 more under various stages of development.

This Government is also working to improve access to personal health care information. A new Surgical Wait Times website (***www.health.gov.bc.ca/swt/***) was launched in 2010 to provide more information about wait times for elective surgical procedures in British Columbia for adults aged 19 and older. The Province also launched a new website (***www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/yourvoice/***) to give patients, caregivers, and patient advocacy groups the means to add their voice to the BC PharmaCare drug review process.



## Safe and Liveable Communities

British Columbia has one of the best criminal justice systems in the world. Our judges, courts, police, corrections and legal profession work very hard to make sure justice is served, that victims receive the supports they need, and that offenders make reparation to victims and society for their criminal behaviour.

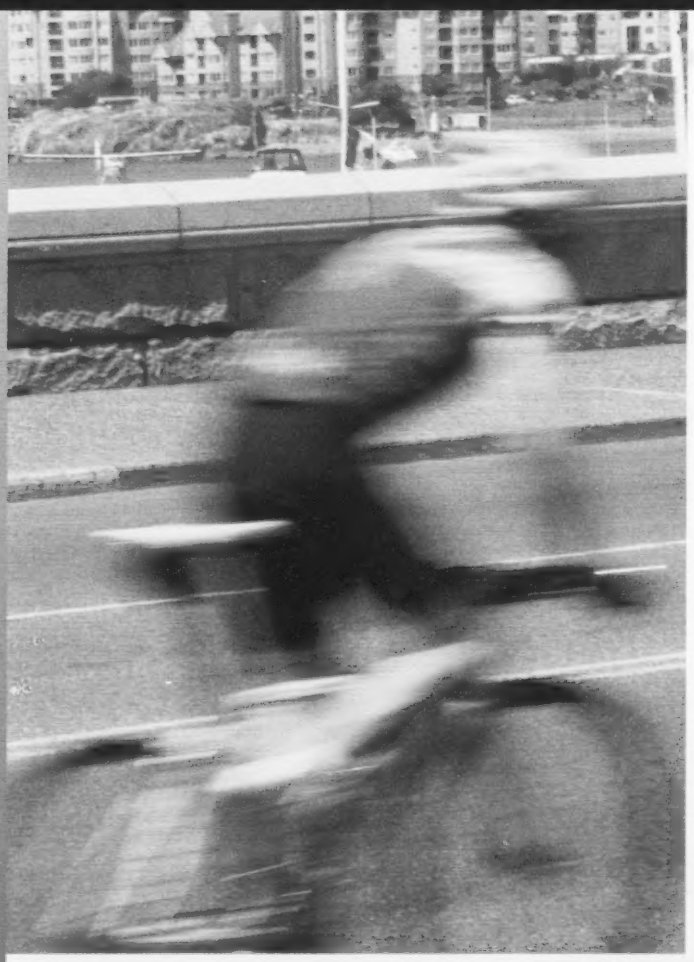
For a variety of reasons, however, demands on the system have grown, as have the costs of operating it. We are committed to finding new ways to make sure justice is served. This Government has been working to find early solutions and faster justice through innovative projects shown to have worked well elsewhere.

One example is Vancouver's Downtown Community Court, which takes a problem-solving approach to address the issue of crime in the city's core area. As the first court of its kind in Canada, early results are promising and show that the court is making a difference through timely access to social, health and corrections services to help change criminals' behaviour and reduce the chances of them re-offending.

The civil forfeiture program helps ensure that criminals do not profit from their dangerous illegal activities. The Province's Civil Forfeiture Office experienced its best year ever in 2010, with a dramatic rise in cases referred by police agencies and the value of forfeiture actions concluded. During 2010 there were 18 properties, six vehicles and 56 cash seizures forfeited to the Province with a total value of $5.3 million. The Office also has initiated proceedings on 105 new files referred to them by the police. The value of assets now pending resolution of active forfeiture actions is $82.6 million.

The Government is also pursuing a broader civil and family justice reform agenda. As part of this, new Supreme Court rules have been introduced that simplify and lower the cost of civil and family court procedures for British Columbians (***www.ag.gov.bc.ca/new-rules/***). They promote early resolution and co-operation, while ensuring the interests of families and children are paramount.

The new rules will benefit average citizens using the court system and make it more affordable for them. Under the new rules, there will be no court fees for the first three days of court hearings. Court fees for filing or responding to a legal claim will be eliminated for parties that engage in mediation prior to commencing a civil action.



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# The Best Environmental Quality

Environmental quality has both direct and indirect consequences for human health and quality of life, and British Columbia ranks among the best in environmental quality in the world. A number of specific strategies contribute to the Province's successful management of our environment.

The ***Air Action Plan*** sets out 28 actions to reduce air pollution by promoting clean transportation, clean industry, and clean communities. These actions include:

- *Promoting a province-wide, anti-idling campaign.*
- *Encouraging companies to use the cleanest available technologies.*
- *Supporting people in replacing old wood stoves with cleaner alternatives.*
- *Greening vehicle fleets through Green Fleets BC and enhancing programs such as Scrap-It and AirCare on Road.*

The new ***BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership*** puts British Columbia at the forefront with aggressive targets for zero net greenhouse gas emissions, new investments in innovation, and an ambitious target to acquire 66 per cent of BC Hydro's incremental resource needs through conservation by 2020. This will ensure we meet our energy needs for the future and at the same time combat climate change. As well, by the end of 2012, BC Hydro will have replaced 1.8 million hydro meters with Smart Meters in homes and businesses.

Climate change has remained one of this government's key priorities. In June 2010 the government passed the ***Clean Energy Act***. B.C. has set a goal of meeting 50 per cent or more of the province's renewable fuel requirements by 2020 with B.C. produced biofuels.

Another objective of the ***Clean Energy Act*** is the export of clean, renewable, made-in-B.C. electricity. The work has begun with the clean power industry to actively seek and advance export opportunities to sell clean, reliable electricity to neighbours in Canada and the U.S.

The Innovative Clean Energy Fund is investing over $60 million in 41 projects in communities across B.C., representing a total value of over $235 million, to help develop clean and renewable energy technologies in areas like solar, geothermal, tidal, wind and bioenergy. A participation royalty structure that has supported the development of wind power projects is resulting in over $2 billion in new clean power investments by the private sector.

Over $2 billion has been invested by the Province in climate change initiatives, through projects that mitigated the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing carbon sinks, and that adapt to climate change by preparing for and adjusting to the impacts of climate change. In 2011/12, B.C. ministries must identify how they plan to adapt to climate change in their Service Plans.

2011 marks the 100th birthday of BC Parks, with Parks 100 celebrations held in parks across the province throughout the year. The Parks 100 celebrations showcase the government's ongoing commitment to conservation, outdoor recreation, education and scientific study. Our parks and protected areas are some of the best in the world, and an important reason for B.C.'s high environmental ranking. British Columbia has the highest percentage of its land base dedicated to protected areas of all provincial Canadian jurisdictions. Our parks system has maintained its

responsiveness to changing conditions and needs over time, balancing recreational and economic considerations with ecological protection.

Water in some parts of B.C. is already under pressure from a number of competing demands, and these demands continue to increase. Urban, land and resource development, climate change and population growth all affect ecosystems, and ground and surface water quantity and quality. In December 2010 the Province released a Policy Proposal on British Columbia's new ***Water Sustainability Act***, and invited direct public participation in the development of the policy in January 2011.



The new ***Water Sustainability Act*** would replace the existing century-old ***Water Act*** and ensure that the management of water is sustainable for current and future generations. The ***Water Sustainability Act*** is for all British Columbians – our communities, our environment and our economy. It will help lighten B.C.'s water footprint and transition us to a new way of managing water. As well, Ministry of Environment staff used the ***Living Water Smart Blog*** to explain key features of the proposed Act in greater detail.

This government's environmental practices support human health and foster economic and social objectives today and for the benefit of future generations. The Province and the Haida Nation signed a new Land Use Objectives Order that promotes effective, sustainable, responsible and respectful resource management on Haida Gwaii. Working together, British Columbia and the Haida Nation are taking bold steps to balance priorities on the land and build lasting and comprehensive reconciliation. The Order also helps bring stability to forest companies and communities on Haida Gwaii by ending a period of land-use uncertainty.

The Province also concluded natural resource management Crown land and wildlife management agreements with the Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, and Prophet River First Nation in the province's northeast.

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# A Diverse, Growing Economy

Virtually every sector in British Columbia has been buoyed by B.C.'s improved competitiveness. This has helped to facilitate an environment throughout the province that builds confidence and creates jobs.

B.C.'s economy and labour market enjoyed several years of strong growth prior to the global economic downturn which started in 2008. Despite enduring one of the worst global economic collapses since the Great Depression, over every year since 2000 B.C.'s annual average unemployment rate has remained at its lowest levels since 1981[2]. As well, B.C.'s average monthly unemployment rate has been below the national average since 2004.

## Asia Pacific Gateway:

One of the mainstays to the Province's efforts for economic growth continues to be our focus on opportunities in Asia. The Asia-Pacific Initiative is a key component in establishing British Columbia as Canada's Pacific Gateway and fostering increased trade and investment opportunities for B.C.-based companies and entrepreneurs in Asia. The Asia-Pacific Initiative identifies five priority areas that are being aggressively pursued:

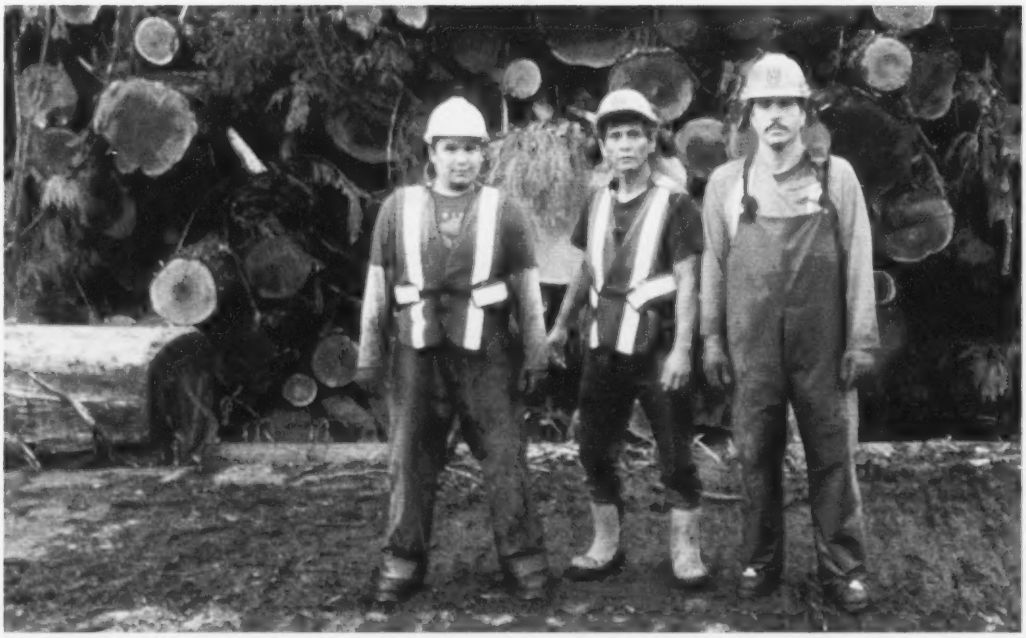
- *Establishing B.C.'s Asia-Pacific identity*
- *Building a world-class transportation and infrastructure gateway*
- *Expanding trade and investment relationships*
- *Establishing B.C. as the Asia-Pacific Destination–a preferred destination for tourism, cultural exchange, business and financial services*
- *Developing and attracting a labour force that has Pacific Century skills.*

Exports to Asia provide an important source of strength and stability for British Columbia's economy. By December 2010, these exports were up:

- *To Japan, by 17 per cent*
- *To China, by 51 per cent*
- *To India, by 95 per cent*
- *To South Korea, by nine per cent.*

Export Development Canada forecasts that B.C. will lead the nation in export growth again for 2011.

2 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



## Regional Development in B.C.

The forest sector was one of the most important beneficiaries from market diversification. By the end of 2010, these efforts supported a stronger, more diverse B.C. forest sector that is moving toward a healthy recovery. A net earnings summary from PricewaterhouseCoopers reported that, for the first time in a decade, all of B.C.'s largest forest companies showed profits in the third quarter.

Asia Pacific's steadily increasing demand for B.C. wood products continues to be the most encouraging indicator that the B.C. forest sector is poised to rebound for a more prosperous future. 2010 was a record year for exports to China, with nearly $2.6 billion shipped in the first nine months alone – surpassing the nearly $2.5 billion record total set for the entire 2009 calendar year. B.C. forest product exports experienced a watershed moment in September when, for the first time ever, the relative value of products shipped to China and Japan surpassed the value of forest products shipped to the U.S. The growth of the Chinese market in particular is making up for a U.S. housing industry that remained sluggish throughout 2010.

The Province will continue to work hard to strengthen the forest sector by diversifying and opening up new markets overseas. Increased demand from China means more forestry workers are back on the job, more mills are running, and forest-dependent communities are enjoying more economic stability. Employment is up in the timber harvesting sector by 4,500 jobs over 2009. The Coastal industry is rapidly recovering with harvest levels up 70.1 per cent year to date. The Interior industry has also seen good growth with harvesting up 24.7 per cent.

Jobs are also up in the wood product manufacturing sector. More than 20 sawmills have reopened in B.C. in the past year, contributing to an additional 1,400 jobs or a 5.2 per cent increase over 2009. Average prices for lumber rose substantially, with 2x4s selling at $250 per thousand board feet compared to $175 per thousand board feet at the same time in 2009.

In concert with developing new markets, we will continue to work with First Nations across the Province to resolve outstanding rights and title issues, fostering increased investor confidence and improving access to economic development opportunities for First Nations people and communities.

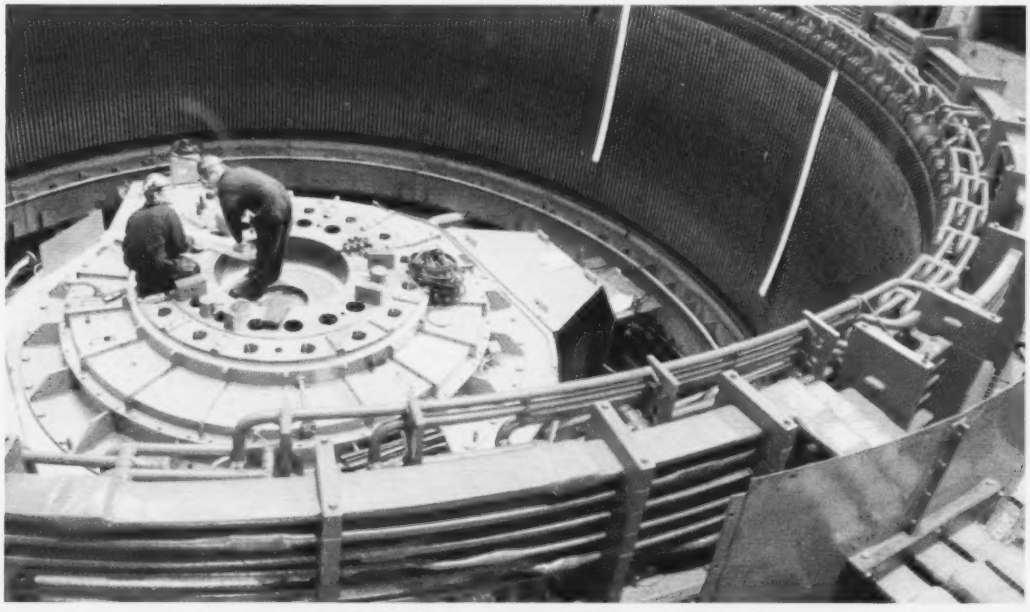
The Province and First Nations have developed innovative new tools in the reconciliation process that enable new economic opportunities. The most recent innovation is the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement. The first of these agreements was signed with the Sts'ailes in December 2010, giving the Sts'ailes a percentage of revenue from forestry activities in their traditional territory. Sts'ailes will use the money to support social programs in their community. With the recent turnaround of British Columbia's forest sector, the Sts'ailes will realize increasing benefits.

The Province also worked with three Treaty 8 First Nations – Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, and Prophet River First Nation – to conclude a final agreement and four resource management agreements in northeastern British Columbia. The agreements benefit the region by establishing a process for consultation and collaborative management of lands and resources between Treaty 8 First Nations and the Province. These agreements build on the five agreements concluded in 2009 and will contribute to stability and certainty on the land base and will help stimulate investment.

The energy and mining sectors also play a significant role in British Columbia's rural economic development, and experienced continued growth. Metallurgical coal production grew 20 per cent to an estimated 26 million tons in 2010. As well, the price of that coal increased from $120 per ton in 2009 to $210 per ton in 2010, with increased demand from China being the main impetus.

There is about $25 billion in potential investment in new mining projects in the provincial environmental assessment system, which is continuing to work towards a one project, one process approval system.

Oil and gas are also very important sources for local jobs and income in B.C.'s regions. Despite the pressures of a global recession, the 2010 totals are the fourth best in B.C. history. Revenue from oil and gas land right sales in the 2010 calendar year totalled $844 million, a positive signal of investor confidence.



## Small Business

In British Columbia, small businesses continue to be a key instrument of job creation and economic growth. They are the primary provider of private sector jobs in the province, reflecting an important and ongoing trend toward economic diversification within the provincial economy. Small businesses also are a vital source of innovation, particularly in the high technology sector. In fact, about 96 per cent of high technology businesses in British Columbia have fewer than 50 employees.

In 2010, the government released a three-year action plan for government's support of small business. The action plan was drawn from 44 public consultations, led by the Small Business Roundtable volunteer board and involving the input of more than 900 small business owners and operators from across British Columbia. The roundtable's 5th Annual Report to Government, released Oct. 4, also informed the plan.

The Action Plan for Small Business 2010-13 focuses on six strategies:

- *Simplify the regulatory environment through programs like BizPaL, the Mobile Business Licence, and an initiative to bring more government forms online.*
- *Invest in human resources and succession planning, through Labour Market Agreement programs.*
- *Improve productivity and competitiveness, through workshops, trade agreements and competitive tax policies.*
- *Support innovation and growth, through clean technology funding, small business export supports and improved access to financing.*
- *Foster a culture of entrepreneurship, through Small Business Month, Junior Achievement and New Ventures BC.*
- *Communicate with small businesses, through Small Business Roundtable consultations, including those tailored for Aboriginal business.*

## Small Business Facts

According to a report prepared by BC STATS, there were approximately 395,900 small businesses operating in British Columbia in 2009, accounting for 98 per cent of all businesses in the province. About 82 per cent of these small businesses were micro-businesses with fewer than five employees. Other key facts include:

SMALL BUSINESSES PER CAPITA – In 2009, British Columbia ranked second only to Saskatchewan in terms of small businesses per capita, with 88.9 small businesses per 1,000 people. The national average was 72.0.

EMPLOYMENT – Small businesses in British Columbia employed 1,045,400 people in 2009. These jobs accounted for 57 per cent of private sector employment in the province, ***the highest rate in the country***.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH – The small business sector in British Columbia felt the effects of the global economic downturn as small business employment in the province fell 1.2 per cent between 2008 and 2009. However, small businesses fared better than larger businesses, which shed 4.6 per cent of their employees.

SELF-EMPLOYED – In 2009, the total number of self-employed people in B.C. was 443,800. On average, the self-employed tend to be older, more often male, and more likely to work longer hours than employees working for others. Almost 35 per cent of the self-employed in British Columbia are women, slightly below the national average.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT – Approximately 32 per cent of British Columbia's gross product was generated by small business in 2009 – ***the highest ratio in the country***. The Canadian average was 28 per cent.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY SECTOR – There were 8,555 small businesses in British Columbia's high tech sector in 2009, representing about 96 per cent of all high technology businesses in British Columbia. High technology experienced a 3.2 per cent rise in the number of small businesses between 2007 and 2009.

# Performance Measures for Great Goals

| Goal 1 – BC best educated, most literate | Baseline | Current Status Jan 2011 | 2015/2016 Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| School Readiness<br>• Percentage of kindergarten students entering school "ready to learn" | 70.4%<br>(2005/06 to 2007/08)[1] | 71.4%<br>(2008/09)[2] | 85% |
| Student Literacy<br>• Program for International Student Assessment Ranking | 2ND in Canada,<br>3RD internationally | 1ST in Canada[3],<br>3RD internationally<br>(measured every 3RD year) | 1ST in Canada,<br>improve internationally |
| High School Completion | 79% (04/05) | 79.7% (2009) | 85% |
| Post-secondary completion | 56% (2004),<br>Canadian average 57% | 59.6% (2009),<br>Canadian average 61.4% | Exceed Canadian average |

| Goal 2 – Lead the way in healthy living and fitness | Baseline | Current Status Jan 2011 | 2015/2016 Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Life Expectancy at birth | 81 yrs (2004) | 81.6 (2009) | >81 yrs |
| Physical activity of British Columbians<br>• More than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day | 58.1% (2003) | 60.3% (2009) | 73% |
| British Columbians who are overweight | 42.3%,<br>Lowest in Canada (2003) | 45.1%<br>Lowest in Canada (2009) | 32% |
| Tobacco use | 15%,<br>Lowest in Canada (2003) | 14.9%<br>Lowest in Canada (2009) | 13% |

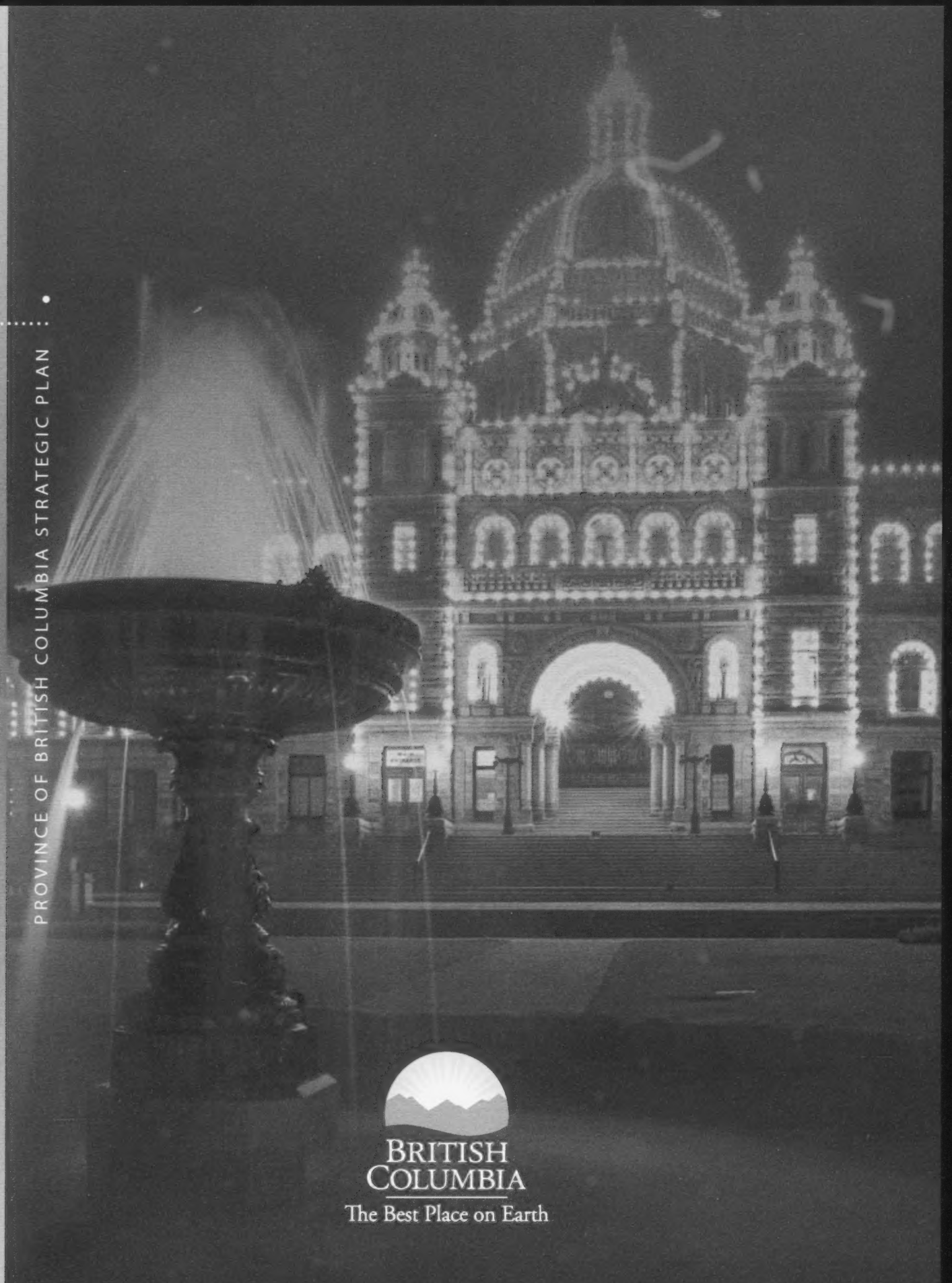
1 Prior to 2008/09, data was collected in waves over three year intervals by the Human Early Learning Partnership.
2 Since not all school districts participated in EDI data collection in 2009, the forecasts and targets are provided in two year waves.
3 Results are presented according to statistical significance. In 2009, there was no statistical difference among the performances of B.C., Ontario and Alberta.

| Goal 3 – Best system of supports | Baseline | Current Status Jan 2011 | 2015/2016 Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Disabled British Columbians who are working | 52%[1] (2001), Canadian 41.5% | 56.5% (2005/06, most recent data available) | 62% |
| Disadvantaged children in age appropriate grade | 86% (2005) | 86.1% (2010) | 95% |
| British Columbia seniors living in institutions<br>• Seniors 75 or older in health care or related facilities | 10.3% (2001), 2ND lowest in Canada | 10% (2006), Lowest in Canada | Maintain Canadian 2ND place rank |

| Goal 4 – Sustainable environmental management | Baseline | Current Status Jan 2011 | 2015/2016 Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average fine particulate concentration in major metropolitan areas | Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2004) | Vancouver is lowest in Canada (2009) | Lowest in Canada |
| Province wide greenhouse gas emissions | 68 (2007 baseline) | 68.7 (2008) | 33% below 2007 levels by 2012, 18% by 2016; 33% by 2010 |
| Water quality<br>• Percentage of B.C. water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving trends | 96% (04/05) | 96% (2009/10) | >96% |

| Goal 5 – More jobs per capita | Baseline | Current Status Jan 2010 | 2015/2016 Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of new jobs per capita | 2ND (2005)[2] | 4TH (2010) | 1ST |

1 Baseline changed due to change in data collection method.
2 Baseline changed due to Statistics Canada 2011 Labour Force Survey population estimate revisions.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